

Comfort My People



... SAYS YOUR GOD. SPEAK TENDERLY.

Isaiah 40

As we look over this year that is still young, many words and phrases come to my mind that continue to dominate the media – Trump, North Korea, nuclear war, Rohingya, #me too movement, storm devastations, terrorist attacks, politics at the Olympics, human trafficking, sexual harassment, youth suicides, killing of innocent children and the list goes on and on! There are many other words and phrases which may come to your mind when you reflect. Whatever they are, what do we hear God shouting out to us?

C. S. Lewis once wrote “God whispers to us in our pleasures; speaks to us in our conscience and shouts to us in our pains. It is God’s megaphone to rouse a deaf world”. I wonder if we are deaf or if we simply don’t know what to do with issues that seem so beyond our control. Do you also get the sense that each day the media has more and more news that causes us to simply shake our heads and exclaim: “what next?” Or are we growing immune to events?

Pope Francis shares wise words which can help us when life seems unthinkable and answers seem few and far between:

Mountain climbers have a lovely song, which I like to repeat to young people. As they go up the mountain they sing, ‘In the art of climbing upwards, the triumph is not in not falling, but rather in not staying down on the ground’. Who is the only one who can take you by the hand so that you are not left lying on the ground? **Jesus Christ**. He sometimes sends a brother or sister to speak to you or help you. ‘Don’t look at me, I am covered in mud. Don’t look at me, I am without hope’. You have only to let him grab your hand and you are his, and then that richness which is inside you, covered in mud, and which you have given up on, will begin, through hope, to bear fruit. But always hold on to Jesus’ hand.

Who are the people in our lives who ‘lift us up’ and give us hope in seemingly hopeless situations? Who are the people who will assist us in not only finding solutions but also in formulating meaningful questions? Who will stand with us for justice and for human dignity? Whoever they are, we pray that Jesus will be at the top of our list! Let Him speak tenderly to our hearts and hold our hands tightly! May your Lenten season be peace-filled!

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